an intermediate switching ATM network addressing scheme that is recognized by the border nodes and independent of an addressing scheme of the asynchronous transfer mode systems. Specifically, the border node of the calling party asynchronous transfer mode system generates an intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network address of the border node of the called party asynchronous transfer mode system. Calls are routed over the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network from the border node of the calling party asynchronous transfer mode system to the border node of the called party asynchronous transfer mode system based on the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network addressing scheme.--

IN THE CLAIMS

11. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said calling party asynchronous transfer mode system comprises a calling party host directly connected to said calling party border node.

Please add the following new claim:

--17. (New) A method for interconnecting a calling party asynchronous transfer mode system to a called party asynchronous transfer mode system by way of a calling party border node, an intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network having an intermediate asynchronous transfer mode network addressing scheme, and a called party border node, the calling party asynchronous transfer mode system having a calling party host connected to the calling party border node, the called party asynchronous transfer mode system having a called party host connected to the called party border node, the calling and called party hosts having an asynchronous transfer mode system addressing scheme independent of the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network addressing scheme, comprising:

generating at the calling party host a message specifying the asynchronous transfer mode system address of the called party host in a called party address information element;

routing the call to the calling party border node;

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substituting at the calling party border node in the called party address information element the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network address of the called party border node for the asynchronous transfer mode system address of the called party host;

transmitting the call over the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network to the called party border node based on the intermediate switching asynchronous transfer mode network address of the called party border node in the called party address information element;

generating at the called party border node a message specifying in the called party address information element the asynchronous transfer mode system address of the called party host; and

routing the call to the called party host based on the asynchronous transfer mode system address of the called party host in the called party address information element.--